

Making Change Together

2024 TDC Policy Retreat



Ashlie Bell-Seibers - Director of Family Voices of Tennessee

Paid Family Caregiving Resolution

- Background - TDC helped pass a resolution (non-binding) that directs TennCare to create a comprehensive, statewide paid family caregiving policy and program
 - How did this happen? How did Family Voices help families and the community engage in this process?
 - What happens next? How do we go there together?

Karen Harrison - Executive Director of TNSTEP

Education Issues:

- Background: The TN General Assembly floated the idea of rejecting federal funding for special education - TDC and partners advocated against it
- Background: Students with disabilities face various forms of informal removal from the educational space - TDC (and Rep White) requested a study from OREA of this practice
 - What was/is at stake in each of these efforts?
 - What are some possible ways to utilize the OREA report to advocate for change?

Gina Lynette - Executive Director of Empower Tennessee

Employment

- Background: TDC helped pass the TennCare for Working Adults with Disabilities Act (Medicaid Buy-In)
- Background: State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) accepted their full award from the federal government
 - What role do advocates and organizations play in addressing gaps and barriers in state-sponsored employment services?
 - What can this look like in advocating for improving the VR system?

Lauren Percy - Executive Director of the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

- Background: TDC and TCBA advocated for the establishment of a new Department of Disability and Aging to combine resources and expertise of the former DIDD and TCAD
 - What kind of opportunities does this create for disability and aging communities to partner and address the lifespan and systems of care?
 - What are future opportunities for advocacy in this space?